



Message from Pastor Chris

May 3, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of Morning Star Lutheran Church:

I am writing to thank you for your continued support of one of our premier outreach ministries, the Morning Star Preschool and Early Childhood Center. Because of this congregation's support over the course of several years, our Center has grown in its scope and success in ministering to families all over the Omaha metro area. This truly is an outreach as we provide access to high quality early childhood education to working families, preparing their children for a lifetime of learning success. Please know how crucial our support of the center continues to be. Thank you very much for your prayers and partnership in this regard!

Thanks to the dedicated work of our Preschool Transition Team, (Kathy Widdershoven, Stephanie Johns, Brett Carver, Anne McGill, and Ronni Schacht), we have selected, among numerous qualified applicants, the next Director of Preschool Ministries. I am excited to share with you now that Sarah Dumke will serve as our next Director. Sarah, of course, has extensive experience in early childhood development as a teacher and an administrator for over 22 years.

What sets Sarah apart however is her passion for children and teachers alike. Sarah has exceptional interpersonal skills, conveying a calm, thoughtful, and consistent approach to her leadership. Not only will Sarah relate to families and be an exceptional ambassador of Morning Star, but she will also be extremely approachable to all of our children in the classroom setting. I believe Sarah, along with our dedicated and talented teachers and staff, will continue to lead our center well into the future.

I invite you to read Sarah's brief introductory biography in this newsletter. We will officially welcome her on our Morning Star staff on May 17th! When she arrives, I anticipate Sarah will be spending time with our staff as well as getting acquainted with our center and our families. Intentionally developing relationships with all of you and this community will be a critical part of Sarah's first few weeks and months at Morning Star. I invite the congregation to take a moment to welcome her onto our staff as we introduce her in worship in the near future.

In the meantime, we express our deepest appreciation for Kathy Widdershoven for her interim leadership of our center. Kathy, together with her executive team Dawn Karnish, April Mather, and Marilyn Sander, have helped to provide us with terrific leadership and continuity during this important transition. Thank you to each of our staff, teachers, and all of you for your support and dedication to our preschool!

Your Partner in Ministry,

Pr. Chris





Easter Morning Sunrise Service
Outdoor Worship

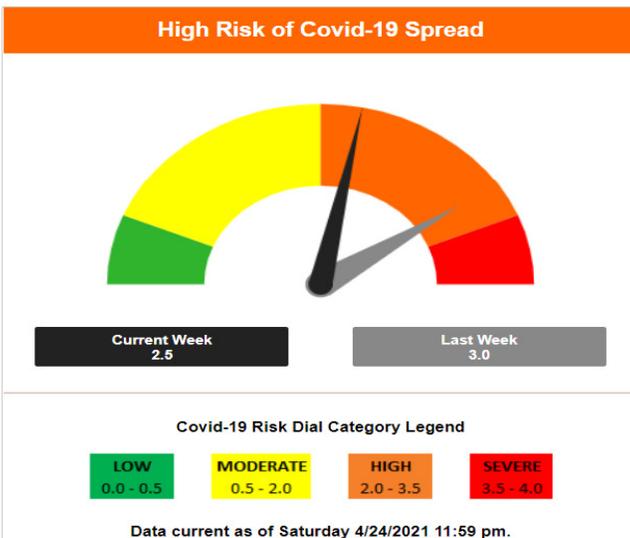


CELEBRATE RECOVERY & SOBRIETY

Thank you to everyone who made the Celebrate Recovery & Sobriety service a special Good Shepherd Sunday. It was meaningful to so many who want and need to know that someone cares...that Morning Star cares! The musical pieces were so uplifting! Thank you to Laura Beeghly, Greta

Carlson, Sheryl Cuba, Brent Ericson, Diane Konvalina, Erica Nightengale, Barb Teter, Kyle Wolfe and of course, Bev McCollum, for blessing us with many talents! Special thanks go to Bruce L. & Kim H. for sharing your uplifting testimonies and to Pastor Glenn's daughter, Heather Schacht-Reisinger, for bringing us the message and reminding us all that recovery is something we can choose every day.

A follow up discussion panel was held after the service via ZOOM and was a good discussion for all who attended. If you would like to know more about celebrating recovery & sobriety or about the Faith Partner's ministry, contact Pastor Glenn Schacht.



mark  your **Calendar**

Morning Star Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, June 13 ~ 11:30 AM

The Council approved using the DCHD COVID-19 dial to guide re-opening of worship. When the dial reaches the yellow zone for two consecutive weeks, we would recommend reopening worship utilizing the same guidelines established in the summer of 2020.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

Morning Star... a light in the heart of Omaha & Beyond



May Green Envelope

Habitat for Humanity is an ecumenical Christian ministry. Their belief is that all people should have a safe, decent place in which to live. ALL people of ALL faiths are invited to join Habitat's mission to build and renovate decent, affordable homes in partnership with local families.



Morning Star is currently involved by financially supporting the Faith Partner's build every year. In addition to sponsoring homes, Habitat always needs Prayer Partners who help lift up the concerns of Habitat Omaha and its Partners. Want to learn more? Visit HabitatOmaha.org or call (402) 457-5657.

May Service Project

Preschool Teacher Appreciation Week is May 3-7. Morning Star is blessed to have a Step-Up to Quality 5-Star rated Preschool & Child Care Center. We are PROUD of our preschool teachers and we would like to shower them with love this year. Would you consider...

...sending a note of thanks to the preschool staff thanking them for their hard work.

...bringing baked goods or a bag of individually wrapped candy (no nuts, please).

...call or send an email to the preschool to let them know you care.

...or use your imagination!

Call the preschool office to arrange drop off of any donations! A special thank you to ALL of our Morning Star teachers!

Morning Star Preschool
& Child Care Center



JOIN US FOR AN

Outdoor Worship Service

8:30^{AM}

M A Y

9th

Join us for a special outdoor worship service on Sunday, May 9 at 8:30^{AM}. Bring your own chair or blanket and coffee and sit on the west lawn. Table Grace's Mobile Food Truck will be on hand if you would like to purchase breakfast and beverages from 7:45-10:30^{AM}. Our virtual service remains at 10^{AM} on Facebook live or shortly after on our website.



Message from Greta Carlson

Well, we are getting close to the end of a pretty wacky school year. I hope you have still had fun with friends and learned a lot. I'm excited for more opportunities of safe connections with you this summer - through service projects, VBS, camp, and who knows what other fun stuff we come up with!

Greta

AT HOME SUNDAY SCHOOL

Greta will send weekly videos with a lesson through the end of May. There is not a supply pack. All of the crafts and activities can be done at home with common household items. If you have any ideas, comments, or questions, please let Greta know!



Greta leading preschool students in a fun round of "Hallelujah!"



The Confirmation youth are having a retreat on Saturday, May 15 from 9 AM - 3 PM at Camp Carol Joy Holling's Sjogren Center (27416 Ranch Road Ashland, NE).



We will explore the Small Catechism, do cool camp things, and get the Confirmation students together and connecting after a year of ZOOM classes.

Lunch and snacks provided. Please register by April 29 by telling Greta you plan to attend AND by filling out the Parental Consent Form.

Confirmation

Confirmation classes are held on ZOOM on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. Our last class before the summer break will be May 19. Contact the Church Office, Pastor Chris or Greta for the link.



Summer Camp is an awesome experience with programs for students K-12th grade! Explore God's call to live FEARLESS (Joshua 1:9) at Camp Carol Joy Holling.

View the schedule, register and see COVID info at CarolJoyHolling.org. Talk to Greta if you want to send your young person with a group from Morning Star. Camp scholarships are available!



Mark your calendar for VBS this Summer: July 19- 23 from 9 AM - 12 PM!

Children in Pre-K through 5th grade are invited to embark on an epic quest through hidden ruins, ancient caves, and dense jungles. They'll discover God's greatest treasure isn't diamonds, gems, or gold—it's them! Registration information, safety guidelines, and more details coming soon! Both in-person and virtual options will be available!



Want s'more
fellowship?

YOUTH FIRE PIT

Sunday, May 26 ~ 6:30 PM

Come roast some s'mores at our fire pit in
the back parking lot.



Graduating high school or college this spring
or summer? This year has been hard enough
so let us help you celebrate by letting the
Church Office know what school, degree (if
college or trade school), and what your future
plans are!

Morning Star Preschool & Child Care Center



402-393-8215 • Preschool@MorningStarOmaha.org

The Preschool Staff and children are very excited to have our new Director, Ms. Sarah, joining us in mid-May. The children will create some welcome posters for her. Our events kick-off with "May the 4th Be with You" week. Space adventures will be explored and the children will have dress-up day. A special Chapel with Ms. Greta will be held for the National Day of Prayer.

Our Orange Stars will graduate on May 13 & 14. Our teachers have done a wonderful job preparing them and we are ready to send them out as shining STARS to Kindergarten. We will spend a week planting gardens and flower pots so that the children can watch the amazing process of plants growing throughout the summer. The last week in May, our theme is Music Appreciation. The children will enjoy music and participate in Dance Party Day.



Hi! My name is Sarah Dumke and I am very excited to be joining the team here at Morning Star Lutheran Church, Preschool & Child Care as the Director. I am thrilled about this position and look forward to getting to know everyone. But first, I'd like to begin by telling you a little bit about myself.

I was born in Englewood, CO and lived in Colorado Springs for several years until my family moved to Papillion in the 90's. Nebraska is my home now, but I still love Colorado and love to take vacations out there as much as possible. I currently live in Bellevue with my husband, Jeremiah, and our 4½ year old daughter, Samantha.

I got my start in Early Childhood Education when I was a teenager and began working at a before and after school program. After working there, I decided I wanted to be a preschool teacher, so I went to Metropolitan

Community College and graduated with my Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education. A few years after that, I graduated from Bellevue University with my Bachelor's Degree in Human and Social Service Administration. Throughout my 22 year career in the early childhood field, I have taught infants all the way through Pre-K, have been an assistant director, an educational coach, and a director at different centers throughout the Omaha area.

I am very passionate about early childhood education and I believe that all children should have access to high quality care. I am so excited for this opportunity to work with the staff and families at Morning Star!

Thank you, Morning Star Lutheran Church Family for your donations to Table Grace during the month of March through the Green Envelope giving! We appreciate your ongoing generosity and support very much! Check out Table Grace's 2020 Annual Report for more info on the impact Table Grace is having on the Omaha Community at

www.TableGraceMinistries.com/2020annual.html



Come to the Food Truck!

Here is the link for upcoming Food Truck events. This is being updated regularly so check back often! Don't forget...you can enjoy breakfast with the Table Grace Food Truck right here at Morning Star from 7:45 to 10:30 AM while joining us for outdoor worship on Sunday, May 9 for Mother's Day!

www.MobileGraceFoodTruck.com/events

Music at Morning Star

Thank you to everyone who continues to serve with your musical talents! We are blessed by all of your gifts!

Blessings,
Simone Weber

**CLOSED FOR
MEMORIAL DAY**



The Church Office & Preschool are closed on Monday, May 31 for Memorial Day.



*Thank you all for the cards and prayers. My recovery is going well. I look forward to seeing you all in church in the near future!
~ Jerry Dieckgrafe*



Stay up to date with the Morning Star calendar at MorningStarOmaha.org. Click on "See Complete Calendar"!

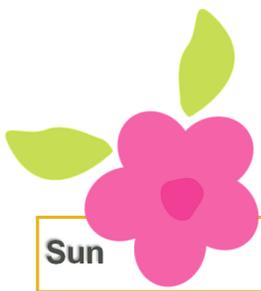
Thanks for your generosity with the altar flowers and bulletins. Call the Church Office for sponsoring information.

flowers & bulletins

	Flower Sponsors		Bulletin Sponsors
May 2	Nancy Sweetwood	Sandy Heskett	Available
May 9	Rod & Cindy Anderson	Diane Konvalina	Available
May 16	Available	Available	Available
May 23	Available	Available	Available
May 30	Ric & Pam Miller	Available	Available

Council Highlights & CELEBRATION

- Bishop Maas and the Nebraska Synod continue to recommend virtual worship. We will be sending a survey to members to determine interest in outdoor services this summer. We look forward to hearing from you!
- We are excited to share that we have hired a new Preschool director! We will be sharing additional information soon.
- We will be ordering new Bibles for our pews provided through a memorial for Bob Sweetwood!



MAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 10 Virtual Worship	3 7 Outreach Comm	4 9:30 Staff Meeting 5:30 AA Meeting 6:30 Exec Comm	5 10 Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation Class	6 5 Preschool Transition Team Meeting 7 DBSA 7 Bell Choir	7	1
Preschool Teacher Appreciation Week						8 12-3 Communion Pick Up 
9 7:45 Table Grace Food Truck Breakfast 8:30 Outdoor Worship 10 Virtual Worship	10 6:30 Church Council	11 9:30 Staff Meeting 5:30 AA Meeting 	12 10 Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation Class	13 4:30 Preschool Graduation 7 DBSA 7 Bell Choir	14 4:30 Preschool Graduation	15 9 Confirmation Retreat ~ Camp Carol Joy Holling
16 10 Virtual Worship	17 7 Outreach Comm	18 9:30 Staff Meeting 5:30 AA Meeting 5:30 Personnel Committee Meeting	19 10 Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation Class	20 5 Preschool Transition Team Meeting 7 DBSA 7 Bell Choir	21	22
23 10 Virtual Worship	24	25 9:30 Staff Meeting 5:30 AA Meeting	26 10 Bible Study 6:30 Youth S'Mores Night 	27 7 DBSA 7 Bell Choir	28	29
30 10 Virtual Worship	31 <i>Church Office & Preschool Closed</i> 					



MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

331 S. 85th Avenue
Omaha, NE 68114

Address Correction Requested



If you notice a mistake or someone not listed, please call the Church Office! Thanks!

Prayer REQUESTS

Prayers

Lindsay Bowley
Jerry Dieckgrafe

Ken Hagemann
Virgene Kobold
Eunice Levisay

Friends & Loved Ones of Morning Star

- Angela, Ava & Mya (family of Jan Zarestky)
- Aya (Moy family friend)
- Carol (friend of Nancy Sweetwood & Sandy Heskett)
- Dave Davis (friend of Ric Miller)
- Kitty (friend of John & Donna Walter)
- Margaret (friend of Lori Mueller)
- Megan (Betty Williams' daughter)
- Shelley Anderson (Carol Anderson's daughter)
- Todd Koers (son of Wally Koers)
- Will (brother-in-law of Ben Byers)

May Anniversaries

Chris & Cindy Hedican	1	David & Marvene Evenson	25
Gary & Sandy Byers	5	Ric & Pam Miller	27
Josh & Shelby Duncan	14	Roger & Janice Hass	31
Dan & Laurel Mooney	16	Tim & Lori Mueller	31

May Birthdays

Susie Bonnett	1	Sharon McGrath	19
Brian Peterson	1	Royann Hedell	20
Cindy Hedican	3	Kenny Gutheil	21
Dan Mooney	4	Daryl Wollenburg	21
Susan Snow	5	Beckett Duncan	22
Bryan Trummer	5	Carol Smith	22
John Kellams	7	Brock Ericson	23
Bev Hartman	8	Amber Froendt	23
Chris Hawkins	8	Charles Scherer	25
Nick Shehan	8	Don McWhirter	26
Jennifer Longley	9	Lynn Blagg	27
Jurene Wegner	14	Don Kemper	27
Jaime Trummer	15	Dick Zahm	28
Ric Miller	16	Jaxson Kempnar	29
Brett Froendt	17	Emily McWhirter	29
Bob Neussendorfer	17	Steve Spear	29
Elaine Kemper	18	Nathan Hawkins	30
Adam Johnson	19		